



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

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COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION

**Wednesday
February 18, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

**Long Beach Water Department
1800 East Wardlow Road**

**Lieutenant Gary Christensen and Officer Ryan Watson
will speak about Auto Theft Prevention**

**Please join us for an informative evening and bring your friends
and neighbors! Our monthly Community Crime Prevention
meetings are open to everyone in the community.**

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- February 7, 2004, Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Long Beach Ice Dogs Annual Police and Fire Night
Long Beach Arena, 300 East Ocean Boulevard
For further information: Jeff Dyrek 562- 624-5576
- February 14–15, 2004, Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Annual Scottish Festival
Queen Mary Events Park, 1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach
For further information: 562-435-3511



AUTO THEFT REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Long Beach Police Department along with the Department of Community Development's Neighborhood Services Bureau will be providing auto theft prevention information and free vehicle anti-theft devices at the **monthly Community Crime Prevention meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2004**. The program is designed to reduce the rate of auto theft through education and prevention.

The program will initially be offered only to residents of Beat 11, which is bounded by Pacific Coast Highway to 7th Street, and Cherry Avenue to Redondo Avenue, but will be expanded to include other neighborhoods based on auto theft rates, funding and community participation.

Winner International, manufacturer of "The Club" steering wheel lock, has partnered with the City to provide the locks at a reduced rate. The Police Department and the Neighborhood Services Bureau will share the cost of the devices, and provide them to residents of the target neighborhoods, free of charge.

To participate in the program you must be a vehicle owner, reside in Beat 11, and join us at the monthly Community Crime Prevention meeting to sign up. Be sure to bring proof of residency and identification.



For additional information, contact the Long Beach Police Department's Community Relations Division at (562) 570-7215.

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT PORT SECURITY UNIT

Leading the fight against terrorism and related crimes is the Long Beach Police Department's Port Security Unit. This specialized unit consists of two sergeants and twelve officers – each bringing a variety of experience to this team.

The Port Security Unit has a total of one land unit and four boats, including two new boats, one acquired from Fish and Game, the other from the Coast Guard. The newer boats are lighter, providing more maneuverability and increased speed, which allows them to respond to incidents more quickly. The new boats also are equipped with an upgraded radar system, marine radios, and other equipment. They are very carefully maintained, including daily inspections of the boats and their equipment, and an oil change every 100 hours of use.

The presence of the unit is a direct result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The unit's main purpose is to deter any terrorist attempts, as well as to enforce maritime laws and regulations.

The Port Security Unit is on duty twenty-four hours a day, and responds to trespassers on the water, stranded boaters, or any suspicious activities or vessels. The unit is updated daily on each ship that will be in their area and the ship's activity, which ships are arriving, which are leaving, and which are loading or unloading cargo. Port Security will escort certain boats in, and works closely with the Coast Guard to check any high-risk ships regarding their destination, business, and cargo.

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LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKING VOLUNTEERS



No police department is large enough to keep a community safe on its own. Effective crime prevention requires the active support of citizens—a partnership of the police department and the community. This is where volunteers in the Long Beach Police Department come in. These dedicated men and women volunteer their time and services to help make the City a safer place to live and work.



The Long Beach Police Department places a high value on its volunteers. Each year, they donate thousands of hours and assist hundreds of citizens throughout Long Beach. The Long Beach Police Department is seeking volunteers who are interested in being part of the Long Beach Police Department.

For more information, please contact the Long Beach Police Department's Volunteer Coordinator, Evelyn Johnson at (562) 570-5299 or the Program Supervisor, Corporal Harry Erickson at (562) 570-7448.

PORT SECURITY UNIT

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The Port Security Unit and the Coast Guard lend support to each other whenever it is needed, and also share a mutually beneficial relationship with the Los Angeles Port Police (separate from L.A.P.D.), who patrol the Los Angeles Harbor. Two Fire Department boats and two land-based Fire Department stations are also available to provide backup support when needed.

Although recreational fishing and boating has been prohibited in the port area for years, it was not enforced until the Port Security Unit was established. At that time, there were a number of trespassers, some having fished the area for ten years or more. Now that trespassers are rare, the unit knows who belongs in the area, and who doesn't. Their vigilant efforts in the harbor have deterred crimes that might have had an impact on the entire city.

A drug smuggling attempt was derailed when the unit responded to a report of two individuals walking on a pier in full wetsuit gear. The men turned out to be Colombian nationals who had tied a duffel bag to pilings beneath a pier. They were arrested, the duffel bag was recovered, and inside it was 2 kilograms of heroin, and almost 20 kilograms of cocaine.

The unit also stopped a suspicious person in a kayak, near the Vincent Thomas Bridge who was found to be a possible associate of a terrorist organization.

If combined, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles would be the world's third busiest port complex, after Hong Kong and Singapore. The Long Beach Police Department's Port Security Unit is responsible for protecting this large area, where much of the city's commerce originates. They are seldom seen by the residents that they protect, but the presence of this highly trained unit is the most important deterrent to terrorism not only to Long Beach, but to surrounding cities, as well.

ERASE THE PAST

EXCHANGING COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR TATTOO REMOVAL

About Erase the Past - This program was established in 1995 by Long Beach dermatologist, Bryna Kane, M.D. with partner Edward Glassberg, M.D. Erase the Past is a non-profit, community-oriented program offering former gang members free removal of visible tattoos in exchange for community service. The program was developed in conjunction with Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, the City of Long Beach, Long Beach Department of Parks & Recreation, and Health & Human Services in an effort to help individuals lead more productive lives and realize their potential for the future.

Many youth who have demonstrated a desire to leave the gang lifestyle behind still have a reminder of the life they want to forget. Visible tattoos are one of the links back to gang activity. Some, however, may have tattoos for reasons unrelated to gang activity.

How the Program Works - Erase the Past is run entirely by volunteers. Physicians, community members, hospital officials and professionals donate their time to maintain the program. Financial support for equipment and administrative services has been donated by Dr. Bryna Kane and Dr. Edward Glassberg and most recently have come from state and city grants and generous, private donations. The physicians of Erase the Past do not receive any compensation for the time or services they provide.

Dr. Kane, Dr. Glassberg and Dr. Reza Babapour conduct the Erase the Past monthly clinics, safely removing visible tattoos using state-of-the-art laser technology. In order to be eligible to participate in the program, applicants must be a resident of Long Beach, between the ages of 14 and 25, have parental consent (if under age 18), have no record of recent gang activity (within the last six months) and be willing to complete five hours of community volunteer service prior to each tattoo removal treatment.

A visible tattoo on the face, hands, neck, arms or legs— is an obstacle that may strongly decrease any chance of returning to mainstream life and employment.

Erase the Past



All applicants are screened through the Long Beach Police Department to verify that they have had no recent gang activity.

After screening, those eligible will choose a community organization to complete five initial hours of community volunteer service required before each scheduled treatment.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call (562) 818-9950.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

Please share your own Neighborhood Watch Success Story by sending an article to the Community Relations Division, or e-mail it to Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov.

Thank You to LBUSD Superintendent Steinhauser

At a recent community event at Whittier Elementary School, Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, of the Long Beach Unified School District, expressed the importance of Neighborhood Watch, especially in blighted areas. In addition to promoting our program, he has told his Principals to make all school facilities available to Neighborhood Watch Block Captains for Neighborhood Watch meetings.

Oftentimes, residents of neighborhoods that are suffering from drug and/or gang activity are fearful to hold the meetings in their homes, fearing retaliation. Attendance at meetings in problem areas is usually an issue as well, because neighbors are fearful of being seen entering or leaving the residence that is holding the meeting. Schools offer a neutral environment where residents can go to participate in Neighborhood Watch, without having to worry about being targeted for revenge.

For those of us that are fortunate enough to hold meetings on our block, please continue to do so. Holding the meetings in a home provides a close atmosphere, benefits attendance by being close and convenient, and also promotes our block-to-block approach to Neighborhood Watch, which has been the most effective. For areas where home meetings are not an option, please spread the word that the Long Beach Unified School District has opened its doors to Neighborhood Watch.

To schedule a meeting at a school in the Long Beach Unified District, please contact that school directly, and make arrangements through the principal of that school. If there are any problems, please contact PSA Lisa Massacani, your friendly Neighborhood Watch Coordinator (telephone 570-7229), for assistance.

Happy New Year!!



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